

I have carefully considered the criteria identified in sections 501 and 502 of the Trade Act of 1974. In light of these criteria, I have determined that it is appropriate to extend GSP benefits to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

This notice is submitted in accordance with section 502(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
March 17, 1995.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 24.

### **Statement on Action in the House of Representatives on Welfare Reform**

*March 24, 1995*

At a time when so many Americans without regard to party agree on the need for welfare reform, it's a shame the House of Representatives could not produce a real welfare reform plan that would promote work and responsibility and attract broad bipartisan support. I am disappointed that instead of joining in a real, bipartisan effort to move people from welfare to work, a narrow partisan Republican majority passed a bill that is weak on work and tough on children.

I am determined to work with Republicans and Democrats in Congress to produce the kind of welfare reform Americans, regardless of party affiliation, want and expect. To end welfare as we know it, we must be tough on work and tough on deadbeat parents not tough on children.

I commend the House of Representatives on one part of the bill that enjoyed true bipartisan support—tough measures on child support enforcement, including refusing drivers' and professional licenses to deadbeat parents who refuse to pay child support. The House passed every major child support element of our welfare reform plan, which will enable us to mount the toughest child support enforcement crackdown in history. It is time to demand responsibility from parents who bring children into the world, not let

them off the hook and expect taxpayers to pick up the tab for their neglect.

Welfare reform can and must be a bipartisan issue. I look forward to working with Republicans and Democrats in the Senate to pass real welfare reform that will make work and responsibility the law of the land.

---

### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

---

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

---

#### **March 19**

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom.

#### **March 20**

In an afternoon ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from the following Ambassadors: Abdulla Bin Mohamed Al-Dhahab of Oman; Jorge G. Prieto of Paraguay; Franklin Sonn of South Africa; Mahamat Saleh Ahmat of Chad; Jayantha C. B Dhanapala of Sri Lanka; Kun Woo Park of South Korea; Courtney N.M. Blackman of Barbados; Corentino Virgillio Santos of Cape Verde; Severin Ntahomvukiye of Burundi; Jesus Silva Herzog of the United Mexican States; Hadj Osmane Bencherif of Algeria; Willie Chokani of Malawi; Basudev Prasad Dhungana of Nepal.

The President announced that he will lead a National Rural Conference on the future of America's rural communities on April 25 in Ames, Iowa.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jerome A. Stricker to be a member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

The White House announced the President will visit Russia and Ukraine on May 9–11 to attend ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of V-E Day and for bilateral discussions with President Boris Yeltsin of Rus-